

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A holder for supporting an article in a vehicle, the holder comprising:
 - a housing having a support surface for supporting an article, wherein said housing defines a vertical axis; and
 - a plurality of leaf members movably mounted relative to the housing, each said leaf member having an end defining a contact surface for laterally supporting the article,
 - wherein said leaf members are movable between a first position and a second position, such that when said leaf members are moved from the first position to the second position, said contact surfaces are caused to move relatively away from one another.
2. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein when said leaf members are moved from the first position to the second position, said contact surfaces are caused to move vertically.
3. The holder according to Claim 2, wherein when said leaf members are moved from the first position to the second position, said contact surfaces are caused to move vertically upwardly.
4. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein in the first position said leaf members define a substantially horizontal surface.
5. The holder according to Claim 4, wherein in the second position said leaf members are disposed at an acute angle relative to the first position.

6. The holder according to Claim 4, wherein in the second position said contact surfaces are disposed at a greater distance from one another and vertically upward relative to the first position.

7. The holder according to Claim 1, further including an actuating mechanism operatively connected to said leaf members, said actuating mechanism for moving said leaf members between the first and second positions.

8. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of leaf members is pivotally mounted relative to said housing.

9. The holder according to Claim 1, said housing further including a housing portion and a body portion, said body portion movable relative to said housing portion, wherein movement of said body portion causes said leaf members to move between the first and second positions.

10. The holder according to Claim 9, wherein said body portion is axially movable relative to said housing portion.

11. The holder according to Claim 9, wherein said body portion is rotatably movable relative to said housing portion.

12. The holder according to Claim 9, further including an actuating mechanism operatively connected to said body portion, said actuating mechanism for moving said body portion.

13. The holder according to Claim 9, wherein said plurality of leaf members is pivotally mounted relative to said body portion.

14. The holder according to Claim 9, wherein movement of said body portion causes said body portion to directly engage said leaf members thereby urging said leaf members between the first and second positions.

15. The holder according to Claim 9, wherein said body portion is substantially cup shaped having a support surface and an open end opposite said support surface.

16. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein said leaf members move substantially simultaneously between the first and second positions.

17. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of leaf members is disposed adjacent to another of said plurality of leaf members.

18. A holder for supporting an article in a vehicle, the holder comprising:

a housing having a support surface for supporting an article, wherein said housing defines a vertical axis;

a plurality of leaf members pivotally mounted relative to the housing, each said leaf member having an end defining a contact surface for laterally supporting the article; and

an actuating mechanism operatively connected to said holder,

wherein said leaf members are pivotally movable between a first position and a second position, such that when said leaf members are moved from the first position to the second position, said contact surfaces are caused to move relatively away from one another, and

wherein said actuating mechanism operates to move said leaf members between the first and second positions.

19. The holder according to Claim 18, wherein said leaf members move substantially simultaneously between the first and second positions.

20. A holder for supporting an article in a vehicle, the holder comprising:

a housing including a housing portion and a body portion, said body portion rotatably movable relative to said housing portion, wherein said body portion defines a vertical axis;

a plurality of leaf members movably mounted relative to the housing, each said leaf member having an end defining a contact surface for laterally supporting the article; and

an actuating mechanism operatively connected to said holder,

wherein said leaf members are movable between a first position and a second position, such that when said leaf members are moved from the first position to the second position, said contact surfaces are caused to move relatively away from one another, and

wherein said actuating mechanism operates to move said leaf members between the first and second positions.